

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-05
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NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 OES-07 ERDA-05
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O 041742Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3701
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 04514

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, PFOR
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, MAY 3, 1977: JENKINS
PARTICIPATION IN DOWNING STREET SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ENGAGED IN HARSH DEBATE, DURING THEIR MAY 3 COUNCIL SESSION, ON THE ISSUE OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS' PARTICIPATION IN THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT. AT MEETING'S END, THE SMALLER EC STATES SEEMED RESIGNED TO JENKINS' EXCLUSION FROM THE MAY 7 PORTIONS OF THE SUMMIT AGENDA; BUT JENKINS HIMSELF ADOPTED A PUBLIC LINE THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT YET SETTLED. END SUMMARY.

2. ROY JENKINS FELL VICTIM TO FRENCH OBSTINACY MAY 3, WHEN UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN (THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT) INFORMED HIS EC COLLEAGUES THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED DURING THE MAY 7 DOWNING STREET SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS, EITHER BY JENKINS OR BY
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PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, IN HIS COUNCIL PRESIDENCY CAPACITY. ACCORDING TO UK PERMREP SOURCES, OWEN SAID THAT THE MAY 7 AGENDA WOULD BE CONFINED TO DISCUSSION BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND HEADS OF STATE OF GENERAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, ON WHICH THEY WILL NOT SEEK TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS OR REACH DECISIONS, AND THAT MAY 8 WILL BE RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION OF

SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITH THE EC REPRESENTED ON MATTER OF COMMUNITY COMPETENCE, SUCH AS CIEC, ENERGY, AND THE MTN'S. OWEN INDICATED THAT CALLAGHAN, AS SUMMIT CHAIRMAN, WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT EC MATTERS ARE DISCUSSED ONLY ON MAY 8. THIS, HE SAID, WAS NO MORE AND NO LESS THAN THE ROME SUMMIT HAD AGREED. OUR SOURCES POINT OUT THAT THERE WAS GENERAL RECOGNITION IN THE COUNCIL OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SEGREGATING EC ISSUES IN THE MANNER OUTLINED BY OWEN; THE MAY 7 TALKS WILL OBVIOUSLY COVER ECONOMIC TOPICS FOR WHICH THE EC IS RESPONSIBLE.

4. UK MINISTER OF STATE FRANK JUDD LATER DEFENDED THE ACTION BEFORE THE PRESS AS A "SENSIBLE, PRACTICAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE FRENCH, WHO DON'T WANT JENKINS THERE AT ALL, AND THOSE WHO WANT HIM THERE ALL THE TIME." HE ADDED THAT THERE IS NOW "A CLEAR AGENDA IN WHICH IT WAS BEEN DECIDED BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT JENKINS WILL BE PRESENT, WITH FULL RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATION, FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF EC COMPETENCE." OTHER MINISTERS WERE PUBLICLY SCORNFUL OF THE ARRANGEMENT. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD SAID FLATLY THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF EC MATTERS ON MAY 7 WOULD BE "A BREACH OF THE ROME AGREEMENT" AND THAT IT SEEMED UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT MAY 7 ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS COULD EXCLUDE SUCH ISSUES AS TRADE, ENERGY, AND UNEMPLOYMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT "IT'S A DAMN SILLY WAY TO RUN A SUMMIT." LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER THORN ALSO DELIVERED SHARP PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE MATTER. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

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VAN ELSLANDE, ACCORDING TO ONE OF HIS STAFF MEMBERS, SUPPLEMENTED HIS CRITICAL STATEMENTS IN THE COUNCIL WITH A FORMAL PAPER, INSISTING THAT JENKINS SHOULD BE PRESENT ON MAY 7 FOR ANY DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR MATTERS, WHICH HE ASSERTED COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED IN A EURATOM CONTEXT. OUR SOURCE NOTED THAT THE BELGIANS REMAIN UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THIS REQUEST WILL BE HONORED AT THE SUMMIT.

5. ON LEAVING THE COUNCIL BUILDING, JENKINS WAS ASKED FOR HIS REACTION TO THE DECISION. HE IMPLIED THAT HE DID NOT ACCEPT IT, STATING THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE MATTER WILL BE DECIDED UNTIL THE FRIDAY (MAY 6) DINNER IN LONDON. APPRISED OF JENKINS' REMARKS BY REPORTERS, OWEN COMMENTED THAT IT WAS "COMPLETE NEWS TO ME THAT IT WILL BE SORTED OUT FRIDAY NIGHT," ADDING THAT, "IT IS NOT FOR ME TO INTERPRET MR. JENKINS' FEELINGS." HE SAID THERE SHOULD BE "NO SURPRISES FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE SUMMIT; ALL THESE

MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED AT PREPARATORY MEETINGS WHERE THEY WERE PRESENT; NO DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT THE COMMISSION BEING PRESENT IN ANY AREA WHERE THEY ARE COMPETENT." OWEN CONCLUDED THAT THIS IS " NOT THE MOST TIDY OF ARRANGEMENTS, WE ARE JUST TRYING TO WEAVE OUR WAY THROUGH THE PROBLEM WITH AS MUCH SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL AS WE CAN."

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6. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED FROM AN EC SECRETARIAT SOURCE THAT DURING THE RESTRICTED DISCUSSIONS ON MAY 3, THE BENELUX FOREIGN MINISTERS SUGGESTED THAT JENKINS SHOULD "CONSULT" WITH THE MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY THE SMALLER MEMBERS, IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT. JENKINS REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT HE WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AND WOULD WELCOME A DISCUSSION IN COREPER OF PARTICULAR POINTS THE MEMBER STATES WANTED TO HAVE RAISED AT THE SUMMIT. ON MAY 4 THE EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT A SPECIAL COREPER HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE MEMBER STATES NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SUMMIT TO " FURTHER CLARIFY THE SITUATION."

7. THE EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ALSO COMMENTED AT THE MAY 4 NOON BRIEFING THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN IN FAVOR OF EC PARTICIPATION AT THE SUMMIT AND THAT THE ONUS FOR THE DECISION WITH REGARD TO JENKINS' PARTI-

CIPATION RESTS WITH THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT. HE ADDED
THAT THE DECISION HAD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO
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